

North Carolina



Dairy Industry Economic Impact

North Carolina ranked 30th in milk production, 31st in number of milk cows, 23rd in milk output per cow and 23rd in number of licensed dairy operations during 2010 in the United States.

North Carolina had five milk processing plants operating during 2010 that were located in Asheville, High Point (2), New Bern and Winston-Salem.

Total amount of milk produced in the state during 2010 amounted 100.23 million gallons (or 862 million pounds of milk).

In North Carolina, cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$165.2 million during 2010.

There were an estimated 44,000 milk cows on dairy farms in 2010.

Each dairy cow in North Carolina produced an average of 2,278 gallons of milk in 2010.

In North Carolina, about 100 percent of the milk produced in 2010 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk dairy foods.

In 2010, North Carolina dairy cows produced an average of 6.24 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 4.99 pounds of cheese or 2.6 pounds of butter. To produce this much milk, an average cow consumes 50 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and feed concentrates and 55 pounds of corn silage.

The average value of a day's milk was about \$10.36 per cow during 2010. Sales of other products associated with the dairy may add another \$1.65 per cow per day.

In 2010, a dairy cow in North Carolina cost about \$1,410 per head. A typical North Carolina dairy farm has a herd of 152 milking cows.

The top six ranking dairy counties according to the number of Grade A dairy farms in 2010 were:

Iredell County, with 5 dairy farms

No other County with at least 3 dairy farms

The top six ranking counties for milk production during 2010 were:

Iredell County, 1.9 million pounds

No other County with at least 3 farms